PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.

28. **Agriculture.**—Copies of Dr. Kunjen Pillai's Report for 1091 will, as usual, be placed in your hands. This will give you an idea of the working of the department during the year. A Sericultural school was opened at Nantankode in Trivandrum under the management of the Salvation Army, with effect from the 1st Edavam 1091, to train pupils in the breeding of silk-worms, and in the adoption of practical methods for popularising the Silk industry. The institution is under the supervision of the Director of Agriculture and receives an annual grant of Rs. 600 from the Government. Under the conditions attached to the grant, the Salvation Army, with the help and co-operation of the Agricultural Department, should distribute mulberry cuttings and silk worm ova among the people and purchase from them cocoons at market prices. No fee is charged for training in the school. There is ample scope for Sericulture as a cottage industry in the State. A Veterinary Dispensary was newly opened at Perumbavur.

29. **Fishery.**—The Inspector of Fish Industries, who had been deputed for further training under Sir Frederick Nicholson, returned towards the middle of 1091 and was engaged in collecting data on the economic condition of the fishermen on the sea-coast, while the other Fishery Officer was detailed for the investigation of backwater fisheries. The experimental Fish-curing Yard opened towards the close of 1089 at Muttam in South Travancore was continued during the year. The large increase in the number of operations carried on in the Yard unmistakably points to the growing popularity of this institution. Action has been taken since the close of 1091, under the Game and Fish Protection Regulation, to empower the Director of Fisheries to grant licenses for fishing in the major backwaters of the State. There was some complaint on the part of the fishermen, prompted perhaps by interested middlemen, against the issue of licenses. I am glad to note, however, that they have, under the advice of the Fisheries Department, realised that the interference of the Government is entirely in their own interests, to save them from blackmail and at the same time to preserve valuable food-stuff from indiscriminate destruction.

30. **Industries.**—The industrial problem has, for some time, been engaging the anxious consideration of the Government. Technical and industrial schools have been started and aided by the Government, but such efforts have been spasmodic and not based on any carefully considered system. Being convinced that it would not be possible to make any headway without a thorough and scientific investigation of industrial conditions, Government have recently sanctioned the appointment of a special officer to investigate and report on the existing industries in Travancore, their present condition, the steps to be taken to develop and improve them, the new industries that could be started with the labour, raw materials and capital available in the country, the best methods of encouraging the development of industries, the cottage industries which may be introduced and worked with advantage, and, lastly, the steps to be taken to impart technical and industrial education. This investigation has been entrusted to Dr. S. G. Barker, who is well qualified alike by study and training to undertake a work of this nature. His expert advice and assistance will, it is hoped, help to an efficient solution of this vital question. Dr. Barker will be in Trivandrum during this session of the Assembly, and will, I am sure, be glad to meet the Members.

31. **Co-operative Societies.**—This department did good work during 1091. 26 Co-operative societies were started during the year, of which 20 are Credit societies. The total working capital of these societies was Bh. Rs. 74,987. The aggregate receipts amounted to Bh. Rs. 1,08,059 and the aggregate disbursements to Bh. Rs. 1,05,859. 289 loans covering a sum of Bh. Rs. 65,897 were issued by the societies. The volume of deposits was poor, being only Bh. Rs. 403; but it is expected that the societies will be able to draw deposits on a larger scale during the current year. Since the close of the year, 11 more societies, of which 10 are Credit societies and one a society for purchase and sale, have been started. The total number of societies hitherto started is 37.

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